

TODAY
ES
IES
OWN
DAY
ER'S

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THREE SHOCK PLANS

PLEASURE DOME ON GLASGOW GREEN

15/6

SHOCK plans to turn part of Glasgow Green into a massive leisure park were revealed today.

Councillors are to consider three rival bids for the transformation of Fletcher's Haugh at the back of the Green. The bids include plans for discos, hotels and cinemas. The proposals will shock traditionalists who want to keep the area around Glasgow Green a dear green place.

CRITICISED

The *Evening Times* has obtained copies of the three plans. Included in the development briefs for the area are plans for:

- A nightclub.
- A disco.
- A 120 bedroom hotel.
- A cinema.
- And a leisure centre.

The plans - kept under wraps

By ROB ROBERTSON

by Glasgow District Council - have been fiercely criticised by councillors and community leaders.

They believe the wide-ranging proposals will transform the idyllic area into one of Scotland's biggest leisure complexes.

The proposals have come from Citygrove Leisure PLC, Sports and Leisure Developments and The Rank Organisation.

The plans will provide up to 600 long-term leisure related jobs in the city.

Today the proposals were defended by the council's parks and recreation committee chairman, Danny Crawford.

Councillor Crawford said the plans would breathe new life into the semi-derelict area at the back of the Green.

Privately, many councillors feel there has not been enough time to look in detail at the leisure park proposals.

One councillor, who did not want to be named as the proposals have still to be discussed by the majority of councillors, said:

"The plans will make the site look like an oil refinery. It is too much for Glasgow Green."

REFUSED

Strathclyde Regional Councillor James Macaskie said he was horrified at the plans.

"This is probably the most historic area of Glasgow. It should be preserved for the benefit of all the people in the city," he said.

Today Hugh Savage, of The Friends of The People's Palace, said there had not been enough time for consultation.

He claimed he had been refused permission to a meeting when the three plans were discussed and said he was shocked at what was being proposed.

From the three proposals put forward, councillors will only choose one option.

The Rank Organisation proposals, titled *Glasgow Leisure* (continued on page 2)

Pleasure dome on the Green

Continued from Page 1

Palace, include:

- A 120-bed hotel.
- Football pitches.
- And a rollerskating centre.

SPORTS

Sports and Leisure Development PLC's proposals include:

- A 90-bedroom three star hotel.
- A garden centre.
- A roller skating rink.
- A health and fitness club.

And sports and leisure plans are part of a long-term aim to improve Glasgow Green. The council has spent nearly £2m upgrading it in the last year.

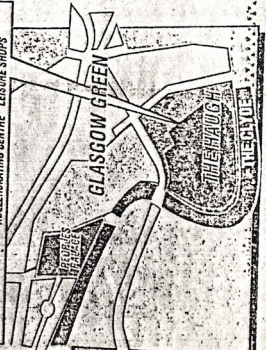
Citygrove Leisure has come up with a three-year plan which has already received interest from companies like Cannon Cinemas, Whitbread Property and Allot Brewery.

Their ideas, which also include:

- A 28 lane ten pin bowling.
- A restaurant.
- And a motor lodge and car parking for 1200 cars.

THE THREE PROPOSALS

- RANK**
 - NIGHT CLUB AND DISCO
 - TEN PIN BOWLING
 - CAR PARK
- CITYGROVE**
 - 90-BEDROOM HOTEL
 - GARDEN CENTRE
 - 120-BEDROOM HOTEL
 - FOOTBALL PITCHES
 - ROLLERSKATING CENTRE
 - LEISURE SHOPS
- SPORTS & LEISURE DEVELOPMENT**
 - 90-BEDROOM HOTEL
 - GARDEN CENTRE
 - 120-BEDROOM HOTEL
 - FOOTBALL PITCHES
 - ROLLERSKATING CENTRE
 - LEISURE SHOPS



MACOM
27m - was at 28th Thurs
OK for FU - Keith

IT'S TIME TO TALK: CAMPAIGNERS THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET...

■ CAMPAIGNERS fighting to preserve Glasgow Green today threw down the gauntlet to city councillors. They have invited all 66 members of Glasgow District Council to a public meeting to hear their views on why private developers should be kept out of the area.

■ If councillors like leader Pat Lally and park supremo Dan Crawford do attend it will be the first time they have come

face to face with their sternest critics, the Workers City Group.

■ The group - who are supported by author James Kelman and comedians Billy Connolly and Spike Milligan - have been enraged at the council's decision to build a multi-million pound complex at Flesher's Haugh.

■ Three companies are currently vying for the £40 million

contract which would include a hotel, a cinema, a ten pin bowling alley, a sports centre and a swimming pool.

■ Mr Brendan McLaughlin of Workers City said: "Glasgow Green should be left well alone. It belongs to the people of Glasgow, not the district council. They have no right to sell it off. To make matters worse, they haven't even bothered talking to the people."



● Spike Milligan, Billy Connolly and James Kelman

● BELOW IS THE FULL TEXT OF AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE WORKERS CITY GROUP CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE GLASGOW GREEN FROM THE DEVELOPERS

IF visitors to Glasgow wanted information on its more notable places of interest, they could find it in the City Chambers, the libraries and the People's Palace.

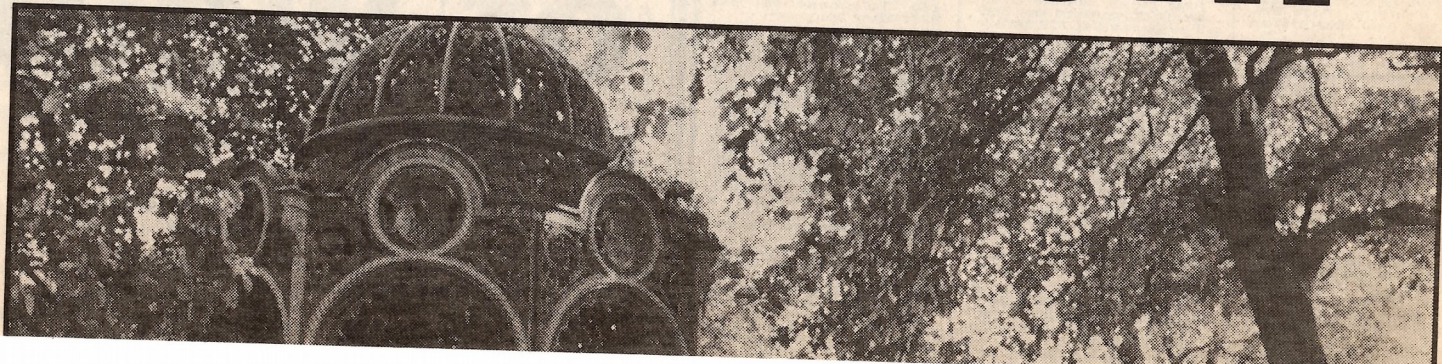
They would also come across one of the city's most enduring legends - Glasgow Green.

Gifted to the people of Glasgow in 1450 by King James the Second of Scotland, it is not just a public park, but a common green for the people, with markets, monuments and many historical sites and skirted by churches and many fine buildings.

The famous "Glasgow Fair" has been held there for hundreds of years and this is survived by the fairground which still sets up on the Flesher's Haugh every year.

The Green has always belonged to the people, and this was best celebrated by the opening of the People's Palace in 1898 which, along with the Barras and Paddy's Market, remains one of the few living people's institutions left in Glasgow.

Hands off the Green!



Free access and free speech were among its most valued distinctions. The various churches used it to preach their different doctrines and many reform movements like the Chartists and the Suffragettes could press for support to their principles without fear of prosecution.

The football pitches at Flesher's Haugh were used by schoolboys, the church league and many famous Glasgow teams. Indeed, Rangers and Celtic played their early years on Flesher's Haugh.

Ironically, though, in Glasgow's year of Culture, the Labour-controlled District Council is secretly finalising plans to close Flesher's Haugh and lease it to private developers for a massive upmarket leisure complex.

Such a deal would close a large part of the Green to free access for the first time in its history.

Although the People's Palace has been brought back to prominence by Elspeth King and Michael Donnelly, the Green has been going in the opposite direction. It is badly served by public transport and basic amenities such as toilets and tearooms and the surrounding area from Calton to the Gorbals have been allowed to become more or less derelict over the years.

Efforts

This is why it is now ripe for redevelopment on a massive scale. Such as:

- The private housing development in Monteith Row, on land gifted by the council to Barratts for £10,000.
- The renovation of Templeton's carpet factory into a business centre.
- The refurbishment of Saint Andrews on the Green.
- The restoration of the Robert Adams mansion in Charlotte Street, next door to Our Lady and Saint Francis School, which, despite efforts to save it, was sold privately for the give-away price of £68,000 and will soon re-open as a private school.

Also underway is the transformation of Saint Andrew Square into a complex of expensive Georgian style flats.

Now, eyebrows are being raised as

the developers stand face to face with the residents of the Calton area and the historical rights on the Green. With much of the residential property in the area being workmen's hotels and hostels, it is hard to imagine the two communities living in comfortable co-existence.

Is it a coincidence that the Great Eastern Hotel in Duke Street has been run down in the last four years, or that the St Andrews Hotel has been closed? Are we about to see the Glasgow version of London's cardboard city?

To ensure easy access to all this new development, the roads surrounding the Green are being upgraded and there are plans for a main through/access road linking

with the motorway system and across to the Gorbals. The Green and the surrounding area is more and more looking like the most desirable commercial prize Glasgow has thrown up.

Change

Already, we have seen the cynical, money-saving attitude which led to the construction of the St Enoch Square "glasshouse" and the SECC. Similar deals are taking place at a rapid pace. Major listed buildings in the Howard Street area, Osborne Street and Stockwell Street have been sold and long-sitting tenants are being forced out.

Plans to build another architectural monstrosity at Flesher's Haugh

are no longer secret. But there have been no open discussions of the plan to demolish Queen Elizabeth Square in the Gorbals.

Glaswegians have seen their city change beyond all recognition and seem unable to do anything about it.

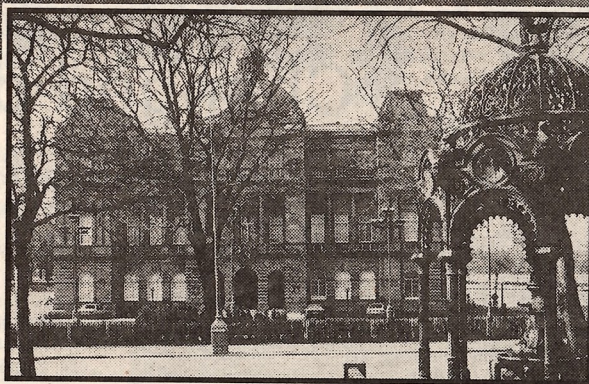
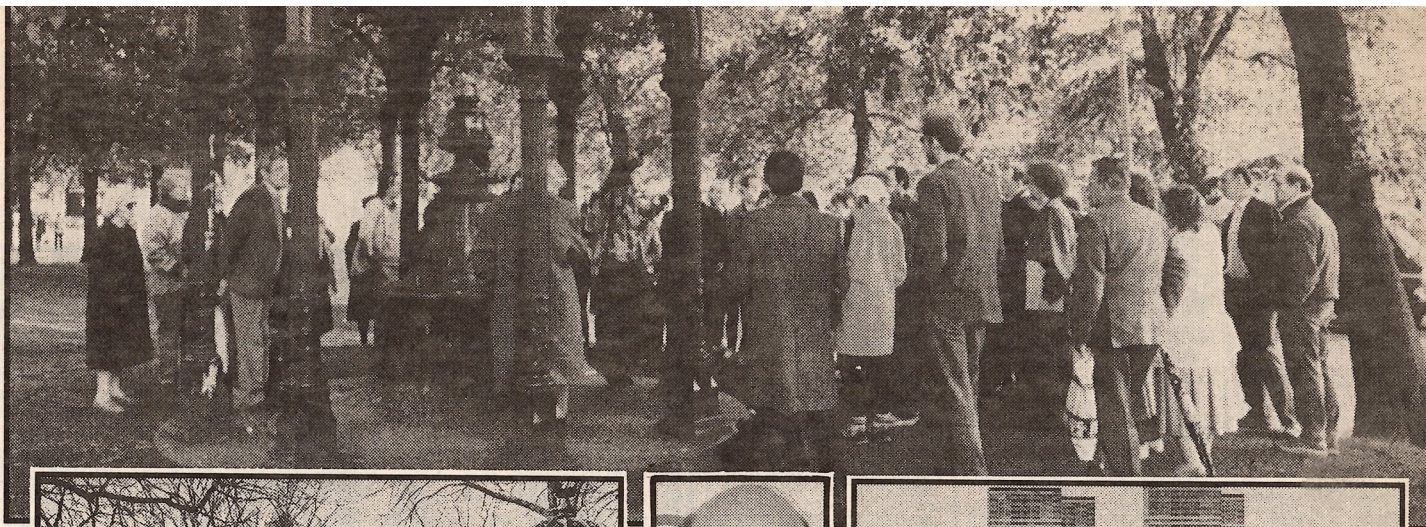
But Glasgow Green, which was bequeathed to the city forever, and is not anyone's to give away. The District Council CANNOT alter the Green's status without first consulting the citizens.

Labour Group leader Pat Lally was elected on a platform of more open government. It is therefore up to us, the people of Glasgow, to remind him of that and demand consultation before agreements are made with short-sighted developers

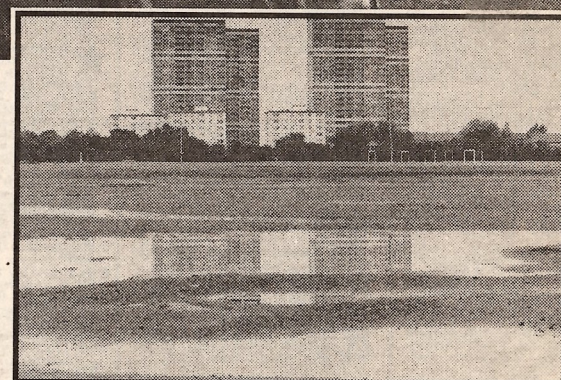
with no thoughts for our cultural heritage and historical rights.

A Workers' City Group public meeting in the Dolphin Arts Centre in James Street, Bridgeton, on Aug. 3 will discuss ways of saving Glasgow Green. On behalf of the Workers' City, we would like to applaud the Evening Times for its consistent criticism of the way in which Glasgow Green is being offered for development.

Freddy Anderson, Norman Bissell, Ronnie Boyd, Billy Connolly, Ned Donaldson, Leslie Forster, James Kelman, Tommy Kays, Janette McGinn, Jim McKay, Ian McKechnie, Farquhar McLay, Brendan McLaughlin, Spike Milligan, Hugh Savage, Jack Withers.



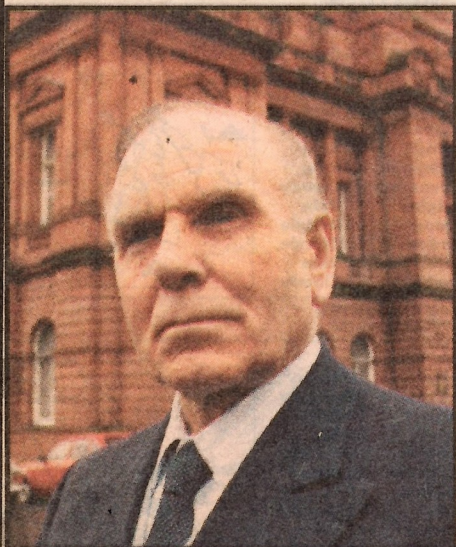
■ Friends of the People's Palace in Glasgow Green last year (above), the People's Palace (left), Labour leader Pat Lally and Flesher's Haugh.



LET GLASGOW FLOURISH

PAGE 4

BID TO STOP LALLY'S POLL ON THE GREEN



AGAINST... Hugh Savage at the People's palace

AN ATTEMPT has been launched to stop council leader Pat Lally carrying out a city-wide poll on the controversial Flesher's Haugh development.

Opposition group the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green are taking legal advice on the possibility of raising an interim interdict to stop the process. Mr Lally surprised opponents and fellow councillors yesterday when he announced that the people of Glasgow would decide on the future of the scheme for a privately funded leisure development.

The move sparked off a furious row and angry protestors and some of Mr Lally's fellow councillors condemned the decision. Mr Lally vowed that he would abide by the outcome of the vote.

The consultation period would last for a month and voting coupons, which can be deposited in ballot boxes being set up around the city or posted to the City Chambers, will be carried in the Evening Times and the council's free paper The Bulletin.

By RON MacKENNA

Save Glasgow Green member Michael Donnelly slammed the poll as "shambolic and haphazard". He said: "This poll can't possibly be fair because people are being asked yes or no when they don't know what's involved. I have been closely involved yet still have only the sketchiest information on what the developers have in mind.

He said Mr Lally had taken the move to avoid a crunch vote planned for Wednesday.

GUARANTEE

"Clearly he didn't have the authority to order this over the heads of his council. It undermines the democratic process.

Mr Donnelly added that the poll ignored the views of more than 200 people who took part in a series of council-organised stormy public meetings last weekend.

"I can guarantee you that if the vote

then had gone the other way there would be no further consultation.

"The city treasurer, Jean McFadden, said publicly the day before the poll was announced that the consultation process was over."

Fellow member Elaine Smith said she suspected the move had been taken to avoid embarrassing the Labour party during the Paisley by-elections. "We believe a lot of what's happening with the poll is a delaying tactic."

Another member Hugh Savage, chairman of the Friends of the People's Palace, said: "We're going to see our lawyer today."

Regional Councillor James MacKechnie attacked the process, warning that the correct procedures for polling the public were not being carried out.

Mr Lally defended the move saying the Save Glasgow Green movement were complaining because the public had accurate information and the group could not distort the facts.

He said the criticism was predictable

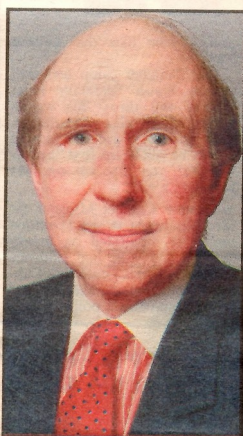
BITTER
HAUL
OF THE
REVENUE
MEN...

PAGES 6 and 7

4-PAGE
TV
GUIDE

PAGES 14 and 15

CAST YOUR VOTE: COUPON ON PAGE FIVE



PAT LALLY . . . ordered poll

Lally faces Labour fury on Green

By RON MacKENNA

REBEL councillors are to launch a major attack on city leader Pat Lally.

They are furious that he has ordered a city-wide poll on the controversial Glasgow Green development at Flesher's Haugh.

They plan to censure Mr Lally on Wednesday for acting without the backing of his fellow councillors.

A move to legally stop the poll has been shelved. The Campaign to Save Glasgow Green says it will wait until after the Labour Group meeting before considering legal action.

"We want this matter to be discussed by councillors," said campaign spokesman Hugh Savage.

CONCERN

"If we try to take out an interim Interdict then Mr Lally could have it taken off the agenda."

According to one senior councillor, there is growing concern over Mr Lally's style of leadership.

"He is increasingly isolated and many councillors are extremely angry this has been taken out of their hands," he said.

Heseltine
s Tory MP Sir
rn mounted an
k on those sup-
allenge to Mrs
ibing Mr Temple-
al waxworks wet".

to say that those
change were seek-
e from diamonds to
ellery," and added:
ere was costume
Peter Temple-Mor-
ther supporters and
seltine. I'm very fond
but he has absolutely
t."

the Prime Minister,
s said: "We are talk-
one of the greatest
aders the West has ever
we say to ourselves we
change her for junk."

ne pro and anti Heseltine
nd indeed Mr Heseltine
will be keeping a careful
wo crucial speeches to be
his week.

is by the Prime Minister to
ord Mayor's Banquet in
on tonight, in which she is
ted to concentrate on Eu-
The other is Sir Geoffrey
re's resignation speech to the
mmons, which he is expected
make tomorrow.

It is understood Sir Geoffrey
will outline differences of sub-
stance as well as style between
himself and the Prime Minister,
and will talk not only about Eu-
rope but about a wide range of

on Page 3

nd Inside



Pat Lally ponders in the background as 80-year-old Sam Glass from Bridgeton makes his point to a developer.

Lally heckled on £30m plan

BY BILL CAVEN

GLASGOW District Council leader Pat Lally yesterday had to face outspoken protests when he chaired a public meeting to outline the plans to develop Fleshers' Haugh on Glasgow Green.

During the two-hour meeting more than 50 people from the Bridgeton and Calton areas made opposition to any pro-

posed £30m leisure development on the site.

They heckled him throughout, and at one point staged a walk-out from the Bridgeton Community Centre.

The meeting was one of four held yesterday around the city to enable interested parties to learn more about the proposals.

The Bridgeton meeting had representatives of two of the rival

companies bidding for the development, Citygrove Leisure, and Sports and Leisure Development.

However, despite repeated warnings from the Labour leader that questions should be directed at the developers, and not the seven officials making up the top table, Mr Lally continually found himself in a shouting match.

One man asked why it had taken so long for the council to come

forward and ask the local community its views.

Mr Lally said there had been extensive public consultation since the matter was first considered more than three years ago.

Mrs Betty McAllister, chair of Calton and Bridgeton Community Council, won applause when she said: "We have told you repeatedly that we don't want this development at Fleshers' Haugh."

match with Celtic at Iynecastle on Saturday, was the subject of a police inquiry. The incident, believed to have taken place in the tunnel at the end of the match, is also understood to be included in Mr McGinley's report which will be sent to the SFA this week.

A Lothian and Borders police spokesman said last night "A situation arose in the tunnel after the match and a senior police officer spoke to a representative of Hearts. No further action will be taken."

Hearts officials were known to be upset at what they saw as inconsistent refereeing by Mr McGinley. Hearts won 1-0. — Match report Page 28.

GUIDE TO GLASGOW

WHAT'S going on in culture city? The official guide to Glasgow 1990 for the next fortnight appears in a pull-out section which starts on Page 9.

CHRISTMAS Countdown 1990

CHRISTMAS Countdown starts today on Page 17 where there is a chance to win a selection of Morrison Bowmore's fine single malt whiskies in a free competition.

Births, deaths, marriages Page 2
World news 4
Women's Herald 6
Letters: Editorial Comment 8
Perspective 13
Arts 14
Sport 23-28

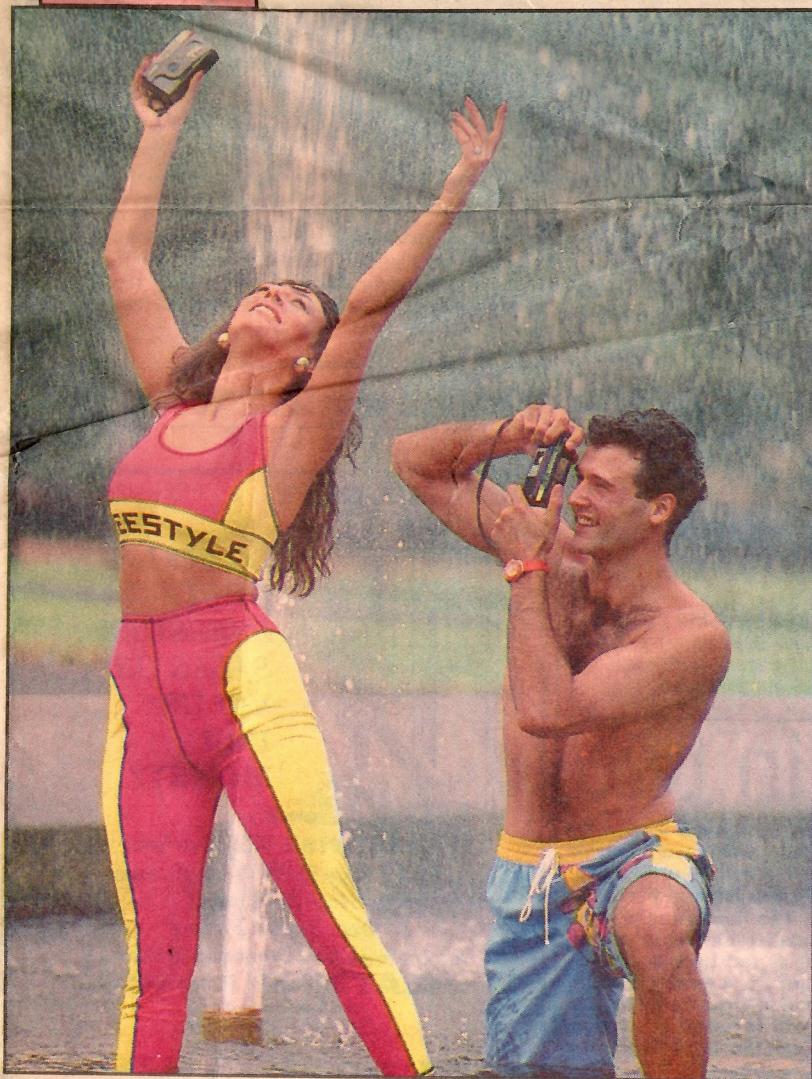
TV & Radio
Page 19

The models were launching a photographic competition sponsored by Brooke Bond, makers of a new blend of tea specially blended for soft water.

And as they posed in Kelvin-grove Park's Stewart Fountain, Simon had no problem finding a soft focus...

PICTURE: MARTIN SHIELDS

HANDS OFF THE GREEN



THE Glaswegian SPECIAL SURVEY

GLASWEGIANS have given a massive thumbs-down to leisure development on Glasgow Green ...

After The Glaswegian put to them the question council bosses **REFUSED** to ask.

A straw poll of 277 pedestrians at the Green itself, the river front and St Enoch Square found an overwhelming 85 per cent **OPPOSED** to the council's plans.

Just 15 per cent – around one in seven – backed the controversial leisure development.

We asked a random sample of city dwellers if they wanted the Green to remain fully in public hands or for sections to be sold for private leisure development.

The reaction of Oatlands couple Stephen and Margaret O'Brien was typical.

Nature

As they went for a walk on the green with their two young children, Stephen said: "It doesn't belong to the council – it belongs to the people of Glasgow."

"There's nowhere else for people to go round here."

Green lover Noleen Walker said no development should be allowed on the city centre's own nature belt.

She said: "We had to walk from Sauchiehall Street to find a green area like this. Nothing should be allowed to spoil it."

The Glaswegian poll

We won't leave the Green alone

●NEWS IN-DEPTH: P2

brought strong reactions from leading city politicians.

Tory district councillor Bill Aitken said The Glaswegian's survey showed a lack of public understanding of the proposals for Flesher's Haugh.

He said: "It may be that if the proposals were explained more clearly there would be a more universal acceptance."

"But the council must be concerned that there is such obvious opposition."

Labour rebel Alex Mosson called for the council's own survey questionnaire to be made public.

He said: "It's no good having a survey and then realising that the questionnaire was worded in such a fashion that it was almost impossible for people to put forward an alternative view."

THE REID BEDDING SALE

ALL BED PRICES REDUCED

At the REID BED SALE, you'll find ALL BED PRICES REDUCED. Choose from our huge range of single, double, king size, orthopaedic, storage and metal fashion beds, all from Britain's leading manufacturers.

FREE DUVET WITH EVERY SALE BED*



SPECIAL SALE OFFER†

Abapung
4'6" CAMILLE 4-drawer divan
Plus FREE DUVET

Sale Price	After Sale Price	SAVE
£199.99	£249.99	£50.00

reid
BEDDING

famous names to sleep with

GLASGOW 72 St. Vincent Street. Tel: (041) 204 3555.

Also at HILLINGTON, UDDINGSTON and MOTHERWELL.

All Sale items subject to availability. † Excluding folding beds. *Offer excludes headboard. After Sale Price is the price we intend to charge after 28th August.

**Council attempt to
suppress report on
£40m leisure plan**

GREEN DREAM BLASTED



THIS IS THE FACE OF
future of the Queen
Brydie McGoldrick
officials and council

TU

**LABOUR plans for a £40 million
redevelopment of Glasgow
Green have been slammed by
their own council officials.**

Their report on the proposals for Flesher's Haugh is sure to embarrass Labour group leaders, who are pushing the plans.

Details have been obtained by The Evening Times despite a last minute move to suppress it.

Councillors were initially given copies of the report but as they sat down at a meeting to discuss the plan they were told to hand them back.

OBSOLETE

The report dismisses council claims that the leisure project will enhance the area.

It describes the design of the development on Flesher's Haugh as "uninspiring" and

EXCLUSIVE

BY ROB ROBERTSON

predicts the whole development could be "obsolete" within twenty years.

The report adds that tenants in nearby Hutchesontown will be badly affected by noise and increased traffic. It even calls into question whether the Green can cope with such a massive development.

CRITICISM

The report, compiled by South Area co-ordinator David Horner, should have been considered yesterday by members of the council's South Area management committee.

But minutes before the meeting started stunned committee members were told the report had been withdrawn and its contents would not be made public.

The papers had to be returned immediately

to Town Clerk Officials in the room and committee chairman Louise Fyfe said that the information had been withdrawn.

It is believed the eleventh-hour intervention had come after senior council officials stepped in. Although they did not call for the report to be withdrawn they did criticise its contents.

Despite their move the committee STILL decided to reject the plans from three private developers for a leisure park on the derelict site.

Parks and Recreation Committee chairman, Dan Crawford sat through most of the discussion on the proposals. He said he was unaware of the report and its contents and therefore could not comment on it.

The ruling Labour Group had anticipated criticisms of the proposals from the public but not from their own officials.

The report is made up of the views expressed by local officers of the Planning Department and Department of Architecture at meetings last Thursday and Friday. They

(Continued on Page 5)

VOICE of the TIMES: PAGE 2

NHS CASH WARNING

PAGE 2

engagement throughout his life and, as a result, he was regarded with great affection and respect by people across the political spectrum and of all ages."

an was a substantial figure in Scottish public life.

"He made a major contribution to Scottish politics, in particular through his life-long

Buchan Testimonial Fund. The money will be used to buy an item for the People's Palace.

Leader comment 14
Murray Ritchie 15

Mr McCulloch was involved in continuing discussions with the management of the new hall over the lighting of his work, which he

Continued on Page 6

who made great play of her intervention in the benefit decision. She accused him of "going for trivia".

She probably meant his insis-

Rank front runner in Glasgow Green stakes

EDICT BROGAN

OW District Council will this week to approve Rank Leisure Ltd as the developer of Fleshers' Haugh on Glasgow Green. The recommendation has been made despite opposition to the plan and has drawn accusations of "bulldozing politics".

Decision will be presented to Glasgow's Labour group for discussion today. Last night's expressed dismay at the plan. One described it as

"a dirty deal done behind closed doors".

A report by the city's Town Clerk was submitted to the council yesterday, and was considered by the Labour group's executive, which met yesterday afternoon.

The development is expected to be worth up to £30m. Mr David Vaughan, managing director of Rank Leisure Ltd, declined to comment on the decision. Rank Leisure was one of three developers shortlisted for the project.

Parks and recreation committee convener Councillor Danny

Crawford could not be reached for comment. On Monday he said: "We have spent £2m on preparatory work for this project. It is time for the council to reach a decision."

The report states: "The council should now agree to offer Rank Leisure Ltd an exclusive conditional opportunity to discuss and develop their ideas further over a period of six months with a view to demonstrating with both a physical and financial model the feasibility of implementing agreed proposals."

According to Mr Crawford, the council will not provide any funding for the development. The council will instead receive payment for a long-term lease, and will benefit from the notional capital value of the project, allowing it to borrow against its value.

One councillor, who requested anonymity but has been involved in the dispute, said council leader Mr Pat Lally "is overplaying his hand. He is going against local committees, the local constituency party, and the local residents".

Fleshers' Haugh consists of derelict football grounds on the banks of the Clyde. The site has been previously used as a dumping ground for chemical waste, and contains structural faults. An estimated £5m will need to be spent on the site before development can begin.

Glasgow District Labour Party, the South Area Management Committee, and the East Area Management Committee have all opposed the proposals.

Last week the council released the results of the survey commis-

sioned from the council's own market information team which found that 75% of Glasgow residents were in favour of a development. However, the survey's validity was called into doubt by opponents who criticised its 52% response rate.

Mr Hugh Savage, a spokesman for the Save Glasgow Green Campaign, said: "We are not opposed to development. We are opposed to decisions about the future of the Green being made without consulting the people."

Dirty deals jibe 15

24/10/80

'Dirty deals behind closed doors' jibe over development of Fleshers' Haugh

By BENEDICT BROGAN

GLASGOW Labour Group councillors will be offered a shortlist of one today from which to choose the developers of Fleshers' Haugh. The announcement that Rank Leisure has been selected by city officials for the controversial development, despite unanimous opposition from councillors, local management committees, and the District Labour Party has sent shock-waves through the group and has cast further doubt on Mr Lally's future as Leader.

Over the past week conversations with a variety of councillors, from the openly rebellious to Lally supporters, have inevitably returned to a recurring theme, a growing worry that hubris may be catching up with Mr Lally. More than Elspeth King, Michael Donnelly, and more recently Jude Burkhauser, mere storms in an intellectual tea-cup, the question of Glasgow Green's future is widely perceived as the litmus test of Mr Lally's management style. And in endorsing Rank Leisure, in the words of one councillor, "Pat may have overplayed his hand".

The history of the Fleshers' Haugh development is a tortured one. Beginning with a manifesto commitment by Labour to revitalise and improve Glasgow Green, discussion began two years ago with the Scottish Development Agency to prepare a brief soliciting development submissions for the derelict football pitches at the south end of Glasgow Green. Fleshers' Haugh was acquired by the city in 1792, and saw use as grazing land, laundry and bleaching area for East-end housewives, and chemical waste dump, before being turned to football pitches. A recurring feature of local legend is that both Rangers and Celtic football clubs began playing there.

Local activists, from the outset, have opposed the development. But opposition to the proposals reached a new pitch in July when a report from the Town Clerk's office to the South Area Management Committee, drawing together the views of the city's own planning and architectural officials, was withdrawn by the Town Clerk moments before it was due to be submitted to committee. The report dismissed the three submissions as uninspiring, warned that they would generate noise and extra traffic in the area, and were liable to becoming obsolete. In particular, the report criticised Rank for its "very large area of unbroken parking" and landscaping "which will be difficult to maintain to a high standard".

In August the council commissioned a survey of Glasgow residents from its own Market Information Team. Following a tempestuous meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee, convener Danny Crawford was obliged to reveal the questions in the survey. Councillors spoke out against it, describing it as biased. Members of the Save Glasgow Green campaign had it analysed by Professor John Foster of Paisley College, who questioned its objectivity. Respondents were not asked to express an opinion for or against development of Fleshers' Haugh. Instead, having been told about the possibility of 400 new jobs, a water park, bowling, cinemas and shops, they were asked: "Generally, do you think such a development would be a good idea or not?"

The response, unsurprisingly, was overwhelmingly favourable. According to the council, 75% of

those surveyed support the idea, and 69% are willing to pay £3 to use it. The results were immediately dismissed by the development's opponents, who pointed out the low 52% response rate. Councillor Crawford is adamant that any doubts about the survey amount to casting doubts on the integrity of the council's researchers.

The mainstay of Rank's proposal for a Glasgow Leisure Palace is a waterworld, an aquatic wonderland heated to a constant, sub-tropical 84 deg. Fahr, featuring a bubbling ziggurat for the children. In addition Rank proposes a motor-lodge, cinema, and restaurant, all owned and operated by Rank subsidiaries. The complete development is understood to be worth as much as £30m.

Rank has won out over Citygrove Leisure plc and Sports and Leisure Developments plc. Until recently the London-based Citygrove had been the favourite. Its presentation had impressed council officials as being far more detailed and aesthetically pleasing than the others. However, Citygrove Leisure's position was fatally undermined by the collapse in August of its parent company, Citygrove plc.

The chemical waste under the site will need to be treated before any building can begin. According to Mr Crawford, treating the the contamination and other structural problems on the site will be costly. "They will need SDA, possibly even European, money to reclaim the land if anything was to go ahead there." The clean-up and preparation work is expected to cost £5m.

Manifesto commitments notwithstanding, the city's principal

interest in the development is money. Using a standard local authority accountant's tool, the notional capital receipt, the city hopes to cash in on whatever is erected on the site. The city will be allowed to borrow against the declared value of the new facility. Glasgow could find itself with an extra £30m credit line. In addition to the capital receipt Rank Leisure will have to pay the city for the lease. Councillor Crawford has made it clear that the amount, and the length of the lease, will be negotiated with the developer.

Allegations of machine politics come from Mr Lally's known opponents within the group. What this latest episode has shown is that even among a few stalwarts, and particularly among the large number of councillors in the middle ground, opposition is mounting to what a councillor described as "dirty deals behind closed doors". Despite having the district party and the areas, all democratically-elected representative bodies, opposed to the proposal, a decision has been made. As one councillor put it, today's Labour Group meeting "will be the last stand for our consciences".

**Education
Herald**
appears every Thursday

in

THE GLASGOW
HERALD

FLESHER'S HAUGH

THE latest edict from the leader of the Labour-controlled district council is one more in a growing list of ludicrous absurdities.

It is destined to turn the present regime into a laughing stock, not only to the people of Glasgow, but throughout the entire country.

He has "ordered" an opinion poll in which not only does he state the case for the "fors" but has the audacity to do the same for the "against"! Could he not have asked us first?

What it does indicate is his contempt for the political know-how of his colleagues and his general contempt for the due democratic process.

One council member has described the unprecedented move as "an attempt to by-pass opposition from within the City Chambers".

Regional Councillor James MacKechnie has given notice "that the correct procedures for polling the public were not being carried out." Mr MacKechnie now points out that it is actually illegal to use the Town Clerk's office for any business unauthorised by the appropriate committee.

BEHAVIOUR

In other words, Councillor Lally's latest rash action is in violation of standing orders. It is no more "constitutional" than the recently-conducted council survey.

Yet his only justification appears to be the need to silence "a highly vocal minority". What sort of political behaviour can this be?

Save the Green group hit back

know their names. So, too, will the rest of the public. On such a serious and controversial issue everyone is entitled to see where their elected representatives stand.



PLAY GOES ON . . . football matches continue on Flesher's Haugh at the weekend unaffected by the controversy.

Mr Lally to the "silent majority" have an unfortunate resonance for some people.

A properly conducted poll, as with any survey, cannot be conducted by

ARE YOU TOO FAT?

10/562a

It is scarcely surprising that his biggest critics are now to be found not simply in the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green but in the ranks of the local Labour Party itself. Members of this group are acutely aware of the need for honest integrity of purpose during the coming year's reselection process for council candidates.

Mr Lally and his dwindling band of cohorts (apparently down to one at the last party meeting) is currently providing the oppositional parties with their strongest ally in years. He declares that of the 65 members of the sitting council, 36 are supporters of himself.

If this is true we would like to

Councillor Lally will no doubt back up our request. His original leadership campaign was fought on a platform of "more open government".

OPPOSED

It is worth reminding ourselves that the attempted privatisation of a third of Glasgow Green (30 acres of the historic area known as Flesher's Haugh) was not on the manifesto of the Glasgow District Labour Party.

They have been opposed to any private development there.

That and the general hostility of the public led the leadership and its supporters to arrange the council survey. The other appeals made by

opinion. It does not offer a mandate to the folk who commission it. Yet Councillor Lally seems set on having us believe that it does.

It is not only preposterous, it is disgraceful. Polls are open to manipulation in various ways.

For example, it would be very simple for members of the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green to round up 30,000 - or 100,000 - coupons, and sign fictitious names of support in every last one of them.

The public should treat this latest manoeuvre with the contempt it deserves.

● By the Save The Green campaign.

Where to cast your vote

BALLOT boxes of a plan to build a £40 million private-ly funded leisure

development on Flesher's Haugh — are currently being set up in libraries and council offices across the city.

FLESHER'S HAUGH DEVELOPMENT

Send your coupon to
The Town Clerk, City
Chambers, Glasgow.

FOR

AGAINST

NAME
ADDRESS

FOR

● 400 new permanent jobs and 200 construction jobs

● Upgrading an underused area

● Establishing city as premier sports and leisure centre

● No cost to the city with £40m investment

● An increase in landscaping and traditional parkland

● Popular support from the Glasgow people

AGAINST

● Green has always belonged to the people

● Access should be protected

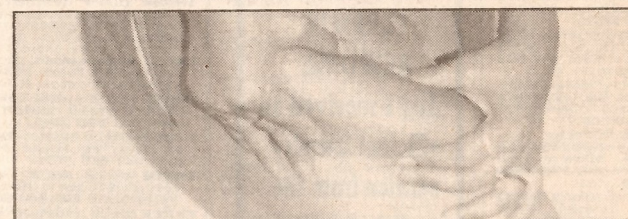
● Glasgow does not need Morecambe or Blackpool-type development

● History of the Green must be protected

● Proposed development would soon be white elephant

● They want development similar to Boston Common in America

3 WAYS TO FIND OUT



WITHOUT HUNGER, INJECTIONS OR PILLS.

- 1) Check Your Tummy
- 2) Pinch Your Waistline
- 3) Check Your Upper Thighs

If any of these describes you, then perhaps it's time for you to act, to see Marie-France Bodyline International. We provide individual calorie controlled nutritional guidance to help both men and women start losing all those unwanted pounds. We will also introduce you to Marie-France therapy which can also help you start losing weight, with medical advice and without the need for additional physical exertion.

Call us for a free consultation and analysis of your figure problem, or just walk in.

☎ (041) 332 8787

Mon-Fri 10am-7.30pm. Sat 9am-1.30pm

You have nothing to lose but those inches and you have everything to gain. Suitable for both men and women.



Marie France Bodyline International PLC

3rd Floor, Tara House, 46 Bath Street, Glasgow

Geneva — Zurich — Bern — Basel — Munich — Lisbon — Singapore — Hong Kong

The people's verdict on Flesher's H

NO

By RON MacKENNA

GLASGOW District Council's proposed development of Flesher's Haugh has been given the thumbs-down in a poll ordered by city leader Pat Lally.

In the poll, which drew a very poor response from the public, 88 per cent were against the planned £40 million leisure development with 12 per cent in favour.

The result binds Mr Lally - a strong supporter of the scheme - into voting against the proposals.

And without his support it is unlikely the plan - to be reconsidered early next year - will ever see the light of day.

Mr Lally challenged the public to reveal the "voice of true Glasgow opinion" and vowed to stand by the outcome.

However, colleagues on the city's ruling Labour group voted against being bound by the poll's outcome.

In total only 1471 people voted - using coupons carried in the Evening Times.

According to results compiled by the Town Clerk's office, 1302 voted against and 169 voted for the scheme.

"I am bitterly disappointed in the lack of interest shown in the poll," said Mr Lally. But naturally as I indicated I accept the result which is not binding on the Labour Group.

"I threw out a challenge to the people of Glasgow. Unfortunately, on this particular occasion, they did not rise in any numbers to that challenge."

City treasurer Jean McFadden said: "I am grateful to the Evening Times for helping to clarify public opinion on this issue. But it looks as though the so-called silent majority have stayed silent."

"Nevertheless it will be one of the facts that the members of the group will take into account when we come back to this issue."

OPPOSITION

The poll was ordered after a highly-publicised campaign against the privately-funded leisure development.

Mr Lally claimed that only a small, but highly vocal, minority were against the scheme.

The project's opponents today welcomed the results, but said they were not surprised by the outcome.



BLEAK OUTLOOK . . . for Flesher's Haugh. The proposed development has been

NOW LALLY MUST VOTE AGAINST THE PLAN HE BACKED

Sacked People's Palace assistant curator Michael Donnelly said the clear "no" vote "should finally put paid to the plan".

He said: "I think it's a fair reflection on how people feel about Green. People are just furious about the whole proposition."

ENTHUSIASTIC

"I hope now there's some sort of reasoned planning for the Green - one that takes account of what people want."

Hugh Savage, of the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green, said: "We're quite happy with that result, but we had no doubts. I hope Mr Lally is a man of his word and will stand by the result."

"While I wasn't very enthusiastic about the poll, I didn't have any doubts over its outcome. We didn't

participate in the poll although we did not boycott it."

Mr Savage said a meeting was being organised early in the new year to consider alternative proposals for Flesher's Haugh.

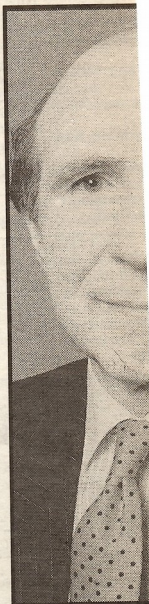
The poll is the third - and most comprehensive - public consultation step taken over Flesher's Haugh.

Earlier this year Glasgow District Council carried out their own survey which revealed a large majority were in favour of the plan.

That survey was heavily criticised by opponents to the scheme and a series of simultaneous public meetings were carried out to back it up.

They attracted a low turnout, but were almost unanimously against the proposals.

In an attempt to settle the issue, Mr Lally ordered the latest poll.



PAT LALLY . . . voted against the outcome of poll. Now against plan he ordered

Ex-leader

LET GLASGOW FLOURISH

Time for a re-think

TWO things have to be said about our poll on the future of Glasgow Green.

The first is that the majority of Glaswegians don't care whether or not a multi-million pound leisure complex is built at Flesher's Haugh.

They are only concerned about what goes on in their own back yard.

That's a rather chastening fact for a paper like ourselves, which takes an intense interest about what happens in the city, to take on board. But the fact remains that the highly publicised Glasgow Green issue is a cause celebre only with the committed, such as Workers' City.

Judging by the letters to this office, it has generated less public feeling than the forthcoming closure of the old Toledo cinema in Muirend.

That must not obscure the second - and most important - aspect of the poll. Nearly 1500 people DID make their views known, and voted overwhelmingly AGAINST any leisure complex, by a factor of 8 to 1.

Taken in conjunction with the public meetings held by the council, which were equally decisive in rejecting the plans, that represents a very clear picture of the wishes of people living in the locality.

Those wishes must be respected.

The council must go back to the drawing board - and come up with a radically different solution.

Free opinion

UNLIKE the people of Iraq and Kuwait, we live in a democracy.

So we don't consider the 41 rebel Labour MPs who broke ranks over the Gulf unpatriotic. Why should they vote for moving closer to a war they don't believe in?

They have a perfect right to dissent, unpopular though it may be. Besides, they are only saying what quite a lot of people here and in the USA are thinking.

CALEDONIAN EXPRESS

ed
unk

Docherty
is family
ne home
football
wife and
o a neigh-

Docherty
mission to
smashed a
the front
police were

w District
y (34), c/o
Drive,
row ad-
ges of
e and
panel.
ed for 30

ON YER BIKE FOR NEW GREEN PLAN

A TOP level cycle race track could replace the Glasgow Green leisure plans.

The idea is being drawn up by the group who successfully blocked the controversial £40 million council-backed scheme.

They plan an enclosed velodrome on the run-down blaes football pitches at Flesher's Haugh.

By RON MacKENNA

Although discussions are in the early stages, it's likely the proposal will be put to Glasgow City Council later this year.

Council leaders yesterday bowed to public pressure and invited all-comers to come up with ideas for Flesher's Haugh.

It follows a sustained campaign against private developers being allowed to build on the council-owned land.

Three competing water park proposals have been shelved until the new consultation procedure is completed.

Hugh Savage, of the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green, said discussions had already taken place with cycling representatives and there had been a favourable response.

Mr Savage said: "We believe that there around 80,000 cyclists in the West of Scotland who would provide a demand.

"We are also looking at ways

to include footballing facilities.

"It would also be possible to use the area in the centre of the velodrome for other sporting activities."

Now his group are planning a public meeting next month.

Council back-benchers yesterday won a move that the city parks department be allowed to submit proposals for the development of Flesher's Haugh - despite being told by parks convenor Councillor Danny Crawford that the city could not fund such a project.

Brides hit Scots note

SCOTS pound notes are in big demand south of the border... as pin money for brides.

The Royal Bank is being swamped by requests from ethnic minority families in England, who want to carry on the traditional ceremony of pinning banknotes on the bride's dress at the wedding reception.

A spokesman said: "We have had dozens of letters asking for our pound notes, mainly from Cypriots and Indians.

8/1/91